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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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EXAMINER

MONBLEAU, DAVIENNE N

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2878

DATE MAILED: 01/12/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/081,865

Applicant(s)

BUTLER ET AL.

Examiner

Davienne Monbleau

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 February 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-80 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-80 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 22 February 2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>2/4/03</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Information Disclosure Statement

The IDS filed on 2/4/03 has been acknowledged and a signed copy of the PTO-1449 is attached herein.

Claim Objections

Examiner just wanted to make Applicant aware of the following points:

Regarding Claim 48, line 2 recites the limitation a "second laser beam", but there is no previous recitation of a first laser beam.

Regarding Claim 49, line 2 recites the limitation a "second guide wire", but there is no previous recitation of a first guide wire.

Double Patenting

A rejection based on double patenting of the "same invention" type finds its support in the language of 35 U.S.C. 101 which states that "whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process ... may obtain a patent therefor ..." (Emphasis added). Thus, the term "same invention," in this context, means an invention drawn to identical subject matter. See *Miller v. Eagle Mfg. Co.*, 151 U.S. 186 (1894); *In re Ockert*, 245 F.2d 467, 114 USPQ 330 (CCPA 1957); and *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970).

A statutory type (35 U.S.C. 101) double patenting rejection can be overcome by canceling or amending the conflicting claims so they are no longer coextensive in scope. The filing of a terminal disclaimer cannot overcome a double patenting rejection based upon 35 U.S.C. 101.

Applicant is advised that should claim 33 be found allowable, claim 39 will be objected to under 37 CFR 1.75 as being a substantial duplicate thereof. When two claims in an application are duplicates or else are so close in content that they both cover the same thing, despite a slight difference in wording, it is proper after allowing one claim to object to the other as being a substantial duplicate of the allowed claim. See MPEP § 706.03(k).

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Applicant is advised that should claim 34 be found allowable, claim 40 will be objected to under 37 CFR 1.75 as being a substantial duplicate thereof. When two claims in an application are duplicates or else are so close in content that they both cover the same thing, despite a slight difference in wording, it is proper after allowing one claim to object to the other as being a substantial duplicate of the allowed claim. See MPEP § 706.03(k).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

Claims 71-79 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. MPEP 2173.05(p) states that a single claim which claims both an apparatus and the method steps of using the apparatus is directed to neither a "process" nor a "machine," but rather embraces or overlaps two different statutory classes of invention set forth in 35 U.S.C. 101 which is drafted so as to set forth the statutory classes of invention in the alternative only. Claim 71 is drawn to a tool adapted to operate on a work piece (device) and is further limited by a method performed by a processor (process). Therefore, the claim, and its dependents, are directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 71-79 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as

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the invention. MPEP 2173.05(p) states that a single claim which claims both an apparatus and the method steps of using the apparatus is indefinite under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

Claim 71 is drawn to a tool adapted to operate on a work piece (device) and is further limited by a method performed by a processor (process). Therefore, the claim, and its dependents, are indefinite because it is not clear which statutory subject matter is being claimed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-5, 7-11, 15, 16, 26-30, 32-36, 39, 40, 50-54, 65-69, 71-74, and 80-83 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kakimoto et al. (U.S. 5,522,683).

Regarding Claim 1, *Kakimoto* discloses in Figure 5 a tool system to operate on a work piece (100) comprising a first guide system providing a first guide (101) and a tool comprising an action component (6) to operate on said work piece (100), a guide detector (3) to detect a position of said first guide position data corresponding to said position of said first guide (101), and a location detector (3) in communication with said guide detector (3) to receive said first guide position data, wherein said location detector (3) determines an orientation of said action component (6), based at least in part on said first guide position data. (See also column 6 lines 19-49.)

Regarding Claim 26, *Kakimoto* discloses in Figure 5 a tool to operate on a work piece (100) comprising an action component (6) to operate on said work piece (100), a guide detector

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(3) to detect a position of a first guide (101) and provide first guide position data corresponding to said position of said first guide (101), and a location detector (3) in communication with said guide detector (3) to receive said first guide position data, wherein said location detector (3) determines an orientation of said action component (6), based at least in part on said first guide position data. (See also column 6 lines 19-49.)

Regarding Claim 50, *Kakimoto* discloses in Figure 5 a tool to operate on a work piece (100) comprising an action component (6) to operate on said work piece (100), a location detector (3) to determine an orientation of said action component (6), based at least in part on position of a set of one or more guides (101), and provide orientation information corresponding to said orientation, and a component controller (27 and 47) in communication with said location detector (3) to receive said orientation information and in communication with said action component (6) to adjust said action component (6) in response to said orientation information. (See also column 6 lines 19-49.)

Regarding Claim 65, the method of a device is not germane to the issue of patentability of the device itself, since the device itself obviously uses the method. Therefore the rejection used on the device applies also to the method of the device. (See Claim 50 above.)

Regarding Claim 71, *Kakimoto* discloses in Figure 5 a tool to operate on a work piece (100) comprising an action component (6), storage devices (43), and a processor (33) in communication with said storage devices (43) and said action component (6), said processor (33) determining an orientation of said tool based on a position of a guide (101) and adjusting said tool in response to said orientation. (See also column 6 lines 23-49.)

Regarding Claim 80, *Kakimoto* discloses in Figure 5 a tool to operate on a work piece (100) comprising means (3) for detecting position data for one or more guides (101), means (3) for determining an orientation of said tool based in part on said position data, and means (27 and 47) for adjusting said tool in response to said orientation determine by said means (3) for determining.

Regarding Claims 2 and 27, *Kakimoto* discloses in column 6 lines 37-40 that said location detector (3) provides orientation information corresponding to said orientation of said action component (6).

Regarding Claims 3, 28, 51, 66, 72, and 81, *Kakimoto* discloses in Figure 5 a set of indicators (17 and 37) in communication with said location detector (3) to receive said orientation information.

Regarding Claims 7, 32, and 52, *Kakimoto* discloses in column 6 lines 37-40 that said orientation information indicates whether a tool adjustment is needed.

Regarding Claims 8, 15, 33, 39, 53, 54, 68, 69, 73, 74, 82, and 83, *Kakimoto* discloses in Figure 5 a component controller (27 and 47) in communication with said location detector (3) to receive said orientation information and in communication with said action component (6) to adjust said action component (6) in response to said orientation information. (See also column 6 lines 40-48.)

Regarding Claims 4, 9, 16, 29, 34, and 40, *Kakimoto* discloses in Figure 5 that said first guide (101) extends across a portion of said work piece (100) and said orientation information received from said location controller (3) indicates whether said action component (6) is oriented to be in line with said first guide. (See also column 6 lines 37-40.)

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Regarding Claims 5 and 30, *Kakimoto* discloses in Figure 5 a first indicator (37) to be asserted when said orientation information indicates said action component (6) is oriented to be in line with said first guide (101), a second indicator (17) to be asserted when said orientation information indicates said component (6) is oriented to be offset to a first side of said first guide (101), and a third indicator (17) to be asserted when said orientation information indicates said component (6) is oriented to be offset to a second side of said first guide (101).

Regarding Claims 10 and 35, *Kakimoto* discloses in column 6 lines 40-44 that the component controller (27 and 47) orients said action component (6) to be in line with said first guide (101) in response to said orientation information.

Regarding Claims 11 and 36, *Kakimoto* discloses in column 6 lines 37-44 that said component controller (27 and 47) orients said action component (6) to be in line with said first guide (101), regardless of whether it is on a left or right side of said guide (101), and maintains said orientation of said action component (6) when it is in line with said first guide (101).

Regarding Claim 67, *Kakimoto* discloses in Figure 5 and in column 5 lines 52-56 that said indicator (17) identifies a direction for steering said tool.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various

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claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 19-22 and 42-45 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kakimoto.

Regarding Claims 19 and 42, *Kakimoto* teaches a first guide (101) but does not teach a second guide. However, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use more than one guide in the orientation/alignment device to improve the accuracy of the tool orientation with respect to the work piece. Increasing the number of reference points (i.e. guides) minimizes the orientation error.

Regarding Claims 20 and 43, see discussion on Claim 2.

Regarding Claims 21 and 44, see discussion on Claim 7.

Regarding Claims 22 and 45, see discussion on Claim 8.

Claims 12, 13, 17, 23, 24, 37, 38, 41, 55-61, and 75-78, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kakimoto in view of Dils et al. (U.S. 2004/0265079).

Regarding Claims 12, 37, 55, and 75, *Kakimoto* teaches in Figure 5 a drilling apparatus but does not teach that other tools may be used. *Dils* teaches in the abstract a hand-held power tool having an object sensor and further teaches in paragraph [0035] that the invention may also be incorporated onto other hand-held power tools, such as a jigsaw. Although *Dils* teaches a different detection system than *Kakimoto*, *Dils* still teaches the desirability of using one type of

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system on many different types of tools. Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use a jigsaw in *Kakimoto*, as suggested by *Dils*, to determine the orientation of a jigsaw with respect to an opaque workpiece. (See *Kakimoto* column 1 lines 31-34.) In this situation, the action component (6) would be the blade of the jigsaw and the component controller (27 and 47) would control the orientation of the blade.

Regarding Claims 13, 38, 56, 57, and 76, *Kakimoto* teaches in Figure 5 a drilling apparatus but does not teach that other tools may be used. *Dils* teaches in the abstract a hand-held power tool having an object sensor and further teaches in paragraph [0035] that the invention may also be incorporated onto other hand-held power tools, such as a circular saw. Although *Dils* teaches a different detection system than *Kakimoto*, *Dils* still teaches the desirability of using one type of system on many different types of tools. Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use a circular saw in *Kakimoto*, as suggested by *Dils*, to determine the orientation of a circular saw with respect to an opaque workpiece. (See *Kakimoto* column 1 lines 31-34.) In this situation, the action component (6) would be the blade of the circular saw and the component controller (27 and 47) would control the orientation of the blade via pistons.

Regarding Claims 17, 24, 41, 47, 60, 61, and 78, *Kakimoto* teaches in Figure 5 a drilling apparatus but does not teach that other tools may be used. *Dils* teaches in the abstract a hand-held power tool having an object sensor and further teaches in paragraph [0035] that the invention may also be incorporated onto other hand-held power tools, such as a nail gun. Although *Dils* teaches a different detection system than *Kakimoto*, *Dils* still teaches the desirability of using one type of system on many different types of tools. Thus, it would have

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been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use a nail gun in *Kakimoto*, as suggested by *Dils*, to determine the orientation of a nail gun with respect to an opaque workpiece. (See *Kakimoto* column 1 lines 31-34.) In this situation, the action component (6) would be a nail firing mechanism and the component controller (27 and 47) would enable the nail firing mechanism when said nail gun is in line with the first guide (101) and disable the nail firing mechanism when said nail gun is offset from said first guide (101).

Regarding Claims 23, 46, 58, 59, and 77, *Kakimoto* teaches in Figure 5 a drilling apparatus but does not teach that other tools may be used. *Dils* teaches in the abstract a hand-held power tool having an object sensor and further teaches in paragraph [0035] that the invention may also be incorporated onto other hand-held power tools and provides various examples. Although *Dils* teaches a different detection system than *Kakimoto* and does not cite a router as one of the examples of other tools, *Dils* still teaches the desirability of using one type of system on many different types of tools. Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use a router in *Kakimoto*, as suggested by *Dils*, to determine the orientation of a router with respect to an opaque workpiece. (See *Kakimoto* column 1 lines 31-34.) In this situation, the action component (6) would be the cutting head of the router and the component controller (27 and 47) would control the vertical displacement of the cutting head.

Claims 6, 14, 25, 31, 48, 49, 62-64, 70, 79, and 84 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kakimoto in view of Olds (U.S. 5,741,096).

Regarding Claims 6, 14, 25, 48, 62, 70, 79, and 84, *Kakimoto* teaches in Figure 5 a first guide (101) on said work piece (100) but does not teach that said first guide (101) is a laser

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beam. *Olds* teaches in Figures 2 and 4 a line-laser assisted alignment apparatus comprising a mark (52) on a work piece (28) that is created by laser guides (48a and 48b). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use a laser guide system in *Kakimoto*, as suggested in *Olds*, to provide an alignment means where the work piece may not be capable of having a mark on its surface. (See *Olds* column 1 lines 39-60).

Regarding Claim 31, *Kakimoto* teaches in Figure 5 a first guide (101) on said work piece (100) but does not teach that said first guide (101) is a laser beam. *Olds* teaches in Figures 2 and 4 a line-laser assisted alignment apparatus comprising a mark (52) on a work piece (28) that is created by laser guides (48a and 48b). *Olds* further teaches in column 6 lines 35-45 using a frame-grabber (which is a detector array). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use a laser guide system in *Kakimoto*, as suggested in *Olds*, to provide an alignment means where the work piece may not be capable of having a mark on its surface. (See *Olds* column 1 lines 39-60).

Regarding Claims 49, 63, and 64, *Kakimoto* teaches in Figure 5 a first guide (101) on said work piece (100) but does not teach that said first guide (101) is a laser beam. *Olds* teaches in Figures 2 and 4 a line-laser assisted alignment apparatus comprising a mark (52) on a work piece (28) that is created by laser guides (48a and 48b), but does not teach other types of guides. However, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use other types of guides, such as wires or track balls, in *Kakimoto*, since they are known in the art for providing alignment assistance and would eliminate the need for controlling various laser beams and maintaining their stability.

Claim 18, to the extent taught and understood, is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kakimoto in view of Dils, as applied to Claim 17 above, and in further view of Olds.

Kakimoto teaches in Figure 5 a first guide (101) on said work piece (100) but does not teach that said first guide (101) is a laser beam. *Olds* teaches in Figures 2 and 4 a line-laser assisted alignment apparatus comprising a mark (52) on a work piece (28) that is created by laser guides (48a and 48b). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use a laser guide system in *Kakimoto*, as suggested in *Olds*, to provide an alignment means where the work piece may not be capable of having a mark on its surface. (See *Olds* column 1, lines 39-60).

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

Kellner (U.S. 6,072,583) teaches an automatic fastening machine comprising laser beams to assist in determining whether the fasteners are tipped or mis-oriented and a machine controller to stop the machine or take whatever corrective action is appropriate to avoid damage to the work piece.

Szuba et al. (U.S. 6,062,778) teaches a precision positioner for a cutting tool insert comprising laser detectors to detect any displacement of the flexure member and cutting tool insert and send signals to a computer that controls the boring bar and displaces the flexure member to correct the position of the tool insert.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Davienne Monbleau whose telephone number is 571-272-1945.


The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dave Porta can be reached on 571-272-2444. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Davienne Monbleau

DNM


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